

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JOHANN 01992 011112Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /071 W

-----028366 011122Z /20

R 010945Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6491

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JOHANNESBURG 1992

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SF

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF TEN STRATEGY FOR SOWETO SELF-RULE

REF: A. JOHANNESBURG 1958 B. JOHANNESBURG 1959

1. CHAIRMAN OF THE SOWETO COMMITTEE OF TEN, DR HARRISON MOTLANA, INDICATED IN BRIEF DISCUSSION WITH US THAT MUCH OF SOWETO IS POISED FOR SUNDAY, JULY 31, PUBLIC MEETING CALLED TO DISCUSS BLUE-PRINT (REFTEL B) FOR SOWETO SELF-GOVERNMENT. DR. MOTLANA STATED COMMITTEE OF TEN HAD ALMOST TOTAL SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY AND ANY SAG EFFORT TO CIRCUMVENT COMMITTEE OF TEN DEMANDS, SUCH AS THE CLUMSY ATTEMPT TO FORM A COMMITTEE OF THIRTEEN (REFTEL A), WOULD MEET WITH TOTAL REJECTION. HE ADDED THAT IN THE EVENT THE SAG TRIED TO IMPOSE THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL ON SOWETO, THEY (THE SAG) WOULD FIND IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND ANYONE WILLING (OR DARING) TO SERVE. THUS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE A COMPLETE ABANDONMENT OF THE CHARADE THAT SOWETO BLACKS HAD ANY VOICE IN RUNNING THEIR COMMUNITY, WITH THE WEST RAND BOARD (WRAB) FORCED TO ADMINISTER SOWETO AS BEST IT COULD FROM WHITE JOHANNESBURG. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JOHANN 01992 011112Z

2. DR MOTLANA ADDED THAT, IN THE EVENT THE COMMITTEE OF TEN BLUEPRINT IS REJECTED, SOWETO BLACKS WILL PROCEED WITH IMPLEMENTATION ON THEIR OWN, DIVIDING THE SPRAWLING TOWNSHIP INTO FIFTY WARDS AND ESTABLISHING DE FACTO CITY GOVERNMENT. ANY ATTEMPT TO ENFORCE WRAB DECISIONS SUCH AS RENT INCREASES WOULD BE MET WITH VIOLENCE. DR. MOTLANA EMPHASIZED THE ISSUES

OF FREEHOLD TENURE, NON-ETHNICITY OF CITY GOVERNMENT, DIRECT LINK TO A JOHANNESBURG METROPOLITAN COUNCIL, AND SELF GOVERNMENT WERE NON-NEGOTIABLE ITEMS.

3. DR MOTLANA GAVE A CLUE AS TO THE IDENTITIES OF THE MYSTERIOUS "COMMITTEE OF THIRTEEN" WHICH THE SAG HAS MENTIONED AS BEING CONSULTED IN OPPOSITION TO THE COMMITTEE OF TEN. HE NOTED THAT, PREDICTABLY, CHARACTERS LIKE DAVID THEBAHALI (FORMER UBC CHAIRMAN), DR NYEMBEZI (SOWETO INKATHA REP), RICHARD MAPOYNA (SOWETO BUSINESS ASSOCIATE OF THEBAHALI) WERE THE ONES THE SAG WAS TRYING TO PULL INTO A CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENT WITH THE WRAB. (NOTE: WILKIE KAMBULE (PRINCIPAL ORLANDO HIGH) MENTIONED TO REPORTING OFFICER HE HAD BEEN APPROACHED TO JOIN THE COMMITTEE OF THIRTEEN BUT HAD DECLINED THE HONOR.)

4. COMMENT: DR MOTLANA IS A VETERAN OF SOWETO'S URBAN POLITICAL STRUGGLE. HIS POLITICAL BACKGROUND GOES BACK TO THE DAYS OF THE ANC AND, AS MOTLANA WRITELY NOTED, HE FEELS SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED TO BE ONE OF THE PROPONENTS OF AN IDEA THAT IS BASICALLY A REAFFIRMATION OF SAG POLICY -- SEPARATE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT. NONETHELESS, THE STRUGGLE FOR SOWETO AUTONOMY IS DEEMED ONLY A STEPPING STONE TOWARD GREATER BLACK POLITICAL RIGHTS AND, TO THIS END, ALL OF SOWETO WAS IN AGREEMENT.
JOHNSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SELFDETERMINATION, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JOHANN01992
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770274-0858
Format: TEL
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708111/aaaadqqc.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1967b350-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 JOHANNESBURG 1958
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1436540
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMITTEE OF TEN STRATEGY FOR SOWETO SELF-RULE
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PDEV, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1967b350-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009